ALBANIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

olive groves cover the surrounding hills turning them into lofty, dark mounds of rich olive-green. Amid all of this rolling naturalness of Mother Nature, the new factory for refining the local oil gives it a startling note of modernity. There is oil in plenty in these rich regions.

Rounding the corner of a hill, a sheer wall rises in the near vicinity, with a few, ancient spires soaring above it. Upon approaching the wall, its height becomes more apparent and which proves to be the historic old town of Elbasan, over which there hangs an aura of historic romance. This high wall gives the small city a most oriental appearance which is in truth, a reality, for Elbasan was founded by Sultan Mohammed II for the purpose of suppressing the natives of this district, because, in 1566, at the time of his conquest, there were few settlements in this region. The Sultan therefore built the town which is now known and called Elbasan, a word of uncertain derivation, but most probably being the Turkish *el basan*, meaning "*land subduing*," and which in all likelihood, was a copy of Alexander the Great's foundation of Smyrna. Here also Mohammed II left several

[In the heart of Albania towards Elbasan --Analyst]

AGRICULTURE

000 trees which are scattered over an area of about 5,000 acres; to increase the supply, about 40,000 young olive trees have been planted in the last few years. The more favorable localities are in Elbasan and Durazzo, although there has been great success in raising trees at Alessio (Lesh), Kavaja and Delvina (Delvinë). However, the fruit alone was exported in former years and the fine oil had to be imported, but since 1930, two large oil refineries have been erected in Elbasan, and others elsewhere later on, and it is interesting to relate that, for the first time in 1931, about 110,000 pounds of refined oil could be exported.

Almost throughout the entire country, vast tobacco fields are to be found, which represent another great source of potential wealth for Albania. The more important fields are in the neighborhoods of Berat, Durazzo, Elbasan, Kavaja, Tepelena and Tirana where an excellent tobacco is grown in great quantities. The tobacco crop of 1932 amounted to about 3,500,000 pounds, and has been vastly increased year by year since. In order to draw every possible benefit for this branch of production, a far-reaching program has been